

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for positioning labels on a graphical display, which, in an illustrative embodiment, can include labels for aircraft icons in an air traffic control system's computer graphics display. The present invention advantageously identifies
5 clusters of overlapping labels and objects, and calculates non-overlapping label positions on a cluster by cluster basis. In another aspect of the present invention, the movement of labels is accomplished in a smooth, incremental fashion so that cognitive distraction to the user of the graphical display terminal is kept to a minimum.